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HOW HOME MANAGEMENT IS ADJUSTING TO WAR CONDITIONS

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Excerpts From State Home-Management Specialists' Letters

July-August 1942

Nebraska. "During our home demonstration staff planning meeting in March, the importance of consumer information in the home demonstration program was considered. Home demonstration agents feel that rather than have one special demonstration devoted to consumer-interest type of subject matter they would prefer to receive in condensed form, monthly or oftener, useful information to use in any meeting, talks, or publicity needed. They also asked to have attention called to important magazine articles especially dealing with this phase.

"A plan was then worked out whereby two home demonstration agents were to serve with me in selecting the material for such a publication. A title of 'Do You Know?' has been chosen.

"So far this sheet, 'Do You Know?' has been sent to home demonstration agents, agricultural agents, and home demonstration specialists. Beginning with the first project demonstration of the fall, copies may be made available for use with project club leaders.

"The first two issues have been mostly selected items from publications, but it will be my aim to rewrite and adapt to local conditions, and when desirable to condense if the full meaning can be retained. This is a new venture and I want to make it as useful as possible.

"The Consumer Interest Committee of the State Home-Economics Association was active last year, having regular monthly meetings. Committee personnel include persons from the resident Home Economics Staff, Extension Home Demonstration Staff, Farm Security Administration, Work Projects Administration, Vocational Education, Civilian Defense Service Corps, University Economics Department, Lincoln Consumers' Business Relations Council, Omaha Consumers' Business Relations Council, and representatives from a city, a village, and also a rural homemaker.".....Muriel Smith.

Kentucky. Distinguished Service, a playlet based on Be a Victory Planner in Your Home. One copy to a State mailed August 15.

"We improvised the hat for Uncle Sam by putting a 10 inch wide piece of white cardboard on a hat with a brim that rolled up at the sides. A band of stars and stripes was made of crepe paper. War Scourge wore streamers of red crepe paper on head and blouse. The costumes were improvised in a few minutes.".....Ida Hagman.

South Carolina. "Thank you for the chart on Managing Your Families Resources for Victory. We took your suggestion and purchased a blackboard, had funny stick-figure decorations for items for the I. O. Bills and the Victory families, and compared the expenditures of these two families (figures from our own accounts) in each group during the afternoon periods of our home demonstration school. That interest in better money management has picked up, was evident among the home agents.

"The school was the best we've had yet as actual practice in giving demonstration was the object, as well as simple, practical demonstrations for wartime.

"We had three demonstrations with discussions (criticisms) in the morning; in the afternoon, discussion on managing the family income for victory, laboratory work in mixing paint and whitewash for all agents, and explaining how to make and slip-cover a comfortable chair from a front seat of a junked automobile by showing one I had done myself as a model. Exhibits set up for observation during free time included portable demonstration models (accompanied by subject-matter demonstration sheet) of different types of home made furniture and furnishings, storage spaces, home screening, and covered garbage pails." See list of literature in the "send-for list".....Portia Seabrook.

Florida. "We are finding a need in these war and busy times for all kinds of labor savers that are inexpensive. The Bureau of Home Economics recently sent out directions for making the old-fashioned fireless cooker. I think we will also soon find a need for the iceless refrigerator where ice cannot be delivered on account of gasoline and tires, and where they do not have the mechanical refrigerators.".....Virginia Moore.

Oklahoma. "Home Management Exhibits at Oklahoma Farm and Home Week.

1. An OPA exhibit of all the literature received from the national office.
2. The Commander Sheet Factory at Sand Springs, Okla., gave us an exhibit on sheets and pillowcases showing twelve processes from the raw cotton to the finished product. This exhibit was labeled 'From Cotton to Linens.'
3. 14 posters on home safety including a list of materials for the home medicine cabinet.
4. How to shampoo a rug including the rug, equipment, and the method.
5. New lease on life for your old furnishings. Repair of worn-out springs in cushions of a divan and properly placing these in the case and tacking them. Slip cover made for a bent-rod straight chair. Suitable slip-cover materials, as people are going to have to use their furniture for some time. A small 29-cent camp stool refinished with a colorful print seat.
6. Accessories for the bedroom closet such as hat racks, padded coat hangers, laundry bags, entitled 'Nifty Nacks for Your Bedroom Closet.'

7. Attractive pair of kitchen curtains from tobacco cloth costing 10 cents a yard. They were decorated with the narrow rick-rack braid, one row of orange in the center and two rows of green. The material launders well.".....Bonnie Goodman.

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